

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) A process for manufacturing a water-absorbing composite comprising the steps of:

(A) spraying an aqueous monomer solution containing acrylic acid and/or its salt on a heat-raised fibrous substrate to apply droplets of the aqueous monomer solution on the fiber constituting the fibrous substrate;

(B) polymerizing the monomers in the droplets to form a water-absorbing composite in which the water-absorbing resin particles adhere to the fiber constituting the fibrous substrate.

2. (Original) A process for manufacturing a water-absorbing composite comprising the steps of:

(A) spraying an aqueous monomer solution containing acrylic acid and/or its salt on a heat-raised fibrous substrate to apply droplets of the aqueous monomer solution on the fiber constituting the fibrous substrate;

(B) polymerizing the monomers in the droplets to form a water-absorbing composite in which the water-absorbing resin particles adhere to the fiber constituting the fibrous substrate; and

(C) thermo-compressing the water-absorbing composite prepared in step (B).

3. (Currently Amended) The process for manufacturing a water-absorbing composite as claimed in Claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein the amount of the water-absorbing resin particles adhering to the fibrous substrate is 100 g/m<sup>2</sup> or more.

4. (Currently Amended) The process for manufacturing a water-absorbing composite as claimed in Claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein the amount of the water-absorbing resin particles adhering to the fibrous substrate is 250 to 500 g/m<sup>2</sup> or more.

5. (Currently Amended) The process for manufacturing a water-absorbing composite as claimed in Claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein the aqueous monomer solution contains a crosslinking agent in 1000 to 5000 ppm to the amount of the monomers.

6. (Currently Amended) The process for manufacturing a water-absorbing composite as claimed in Claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein the fibrous substrate to be sprayed with the aqueous monomer solution is an unwoven fabric with a tensile strength of 50 to 300 g/25 mm.

7. (Original) A process for manufacturing a laminated water-absorbing composite comprising the steps of:

(A) spraying an aqueous monomer solution containing acrylic acid and/or its salt on a heat-raised fibrous substrate to apply droplets of the aqueous monomer solution on the fiber constituting the fibrous substrate;

(B) polymerizing the monomers in the droplets to form a water-absorbing composite in which the water-absorbing composite in which the water-absorbing resin particles adhere to the fiber constituting the fibrous substrate; and

(D) laminating the water-absorbing composite prepared in step (B) and a fibrous substrate to form a laminate and then passing the laminate between a pair of rollers, at least one of which is heated, for thermally compressing the laminate to integrate combine the water-absorbing composite and the fibrous substrate by thermal fusion.

8. (Original) The process for manufacturing a laminated water-absorbing composite as claimed in Claim 7, wherein at least one of the pair of rollers has a surface with an uneven pattern.

9. (New) The process for manufacturing a water-absorbing composite as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the amount of the water-absorbing resin particles adhering to the fibrous substrate is  $100 \text{ g/m}^2$  or more.

10. (New) The process for manufacturing a water-absorbing composite as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the amount of the water-absorbing resin particles adhering to the fibrous substrate is 250 to  $500 \text{ g/m}^2$  or more.

11. (New) The process for manufacturing a water-absorbing composite as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the aqueous monomer solution contains a crosslinking agent in 1000 to 5000 ppm to the amount of the monomers.

12. (New) The process for manufacturing a water-absorbing composite as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the fibrous substrate to be sprayed with the aqueous monomer solution is an unwoven fabric with a tensile strength of 50 to  $300 \text{ g/25 mm}$ .